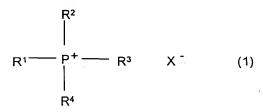
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of the formula



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in which one, two or three of the radicals R1, R2, R3 and R4 are

$$-N = N - N\{(CH_2 - CH_2 - O)_m R^5\}_2, -N = N - R^6 \text{ or } -N\{(CH_2 - CH_2 - N(R^7))_n R^8\}_2$$

where m and n are an integer from 1 to 10, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are, independently of one another, identical or different and are a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and the remaining radical(s) R¹ to R⁴ are

or –NR⁹R¹⁰, where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are identical or different and are a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

and X is an inorganic or organic anion or an equivalent of a multiply charged inorganic or organic anion.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein one or two of the radicals R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are

$$-N = -N - N\{(CH_2-CH_2-O)_mR^5\}_2, \quad -N = -N\{(CH_2-CH_2-N(R^7))_nR^8\}_2$$

20 and the remaining radicals R1 to R4 are

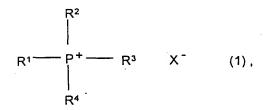
$$-N$$
, $-N$

or -NR9R10.

- 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein m and n are an integer from 1 to 6, and R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are identical or different and are a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
- 4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein X⁻ is F⁻, Cl⁻, Br⁻, l⁻, ClO₄⁻, BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, NO₃⁻, HSO₄⁻, ½ SO₄²⁻, H₂PO₄⁻, ½ HPO₄²⁻, 1/3 PO₄³⁻, R'-COO⁻, where R' is an alkyl radical having 1 to 9 carbon atoms, a phenyl radical, benzyl radical or naphthyl radical, R"-SO₃⁻, where R" is an alkyl radical having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, a phenyl radical, tolyl radical or naphthyl radical, HCO₃⁻, ½ CO₃²⁻ or ½ C₆H₄(COO⁻)₂.

5. A mixture of substances comprising at least one compound of the formula

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in which R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and X⁻ have the above meaning, and at least one compound selected from the group of quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula

$$R^{12}$$
 $R^{11} - N^{+} - R^{13} \qquad Y^{-} \qquad (2),$
 R^{14}

20 quaternary ammonium salts or phosphonium salts of the formula

$$R^{17}$$
 $R^{16} - Z^{+} - R^{18} \quad Y^{-}$ (3)
 R^{19}

polyethers of the formula R^{20} - $(O-C_xH_{2x})_s$ - OR^{21} (4) and crown ethers, in which in formula (2) R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are identical or different and are a linear or branched radical of the formula $-(C_pH_{2p}O)_rR^{15}$ in which R^{15} is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 16 carbon atoms, p is an integer from 1 to 10,

and r is an integer from 1 to 15; or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 30 carbon atoms; or an unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl radical, or a substituted phenyl or naphthyl radical, where the substituents have the meaning of halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, nitro or cyano;

10 R^{14} is a linear or branched radical of the formula $-(C_pH_{2p}O)_rR^{15}$ and Y^- is an inorganic anion; and in formula (3)

 R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} and R^{19} are identical or different and are a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 22 carbon atoms; or an unsubstituted or substituted aryl radical or a C_1 - C_4 -alkylaryl radical, where aryl has the meaning of phenyl or naphthyl, and said substituents are halogen,

 C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, nitro or cyano; Z has the meaning of N or P, and Y is an inorganic anion;

and in formula (4)

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20 R²⁰ and R²¹ are identical or different and are a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 16 carbon atoms;

x is an integer from 2 to 6 and

s is an integer from 1 to 60;

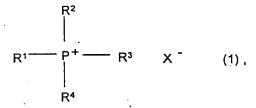
or one of the radicals R²⁰ and R²¹ is hydrogen and the other one of the radicals is a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 16 carbon atoms,

x is an integer from 2 to 6 and s is an integer from 2 to 50, or the radicals R^{20} and R^{21} are hydrogen, x is an integer from 2 to 6 and s is an integer from 3 to 5.

6. A mixture of substances as claimed in claim 5, which comprise at least one compound of the formula (1) and at least one compound selected from the group of quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula (2), quaternary ammonium salts and phosphonium salts of the formula (3), polyethers of the formula (4) and crown ethers, in which in formula (2) R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ are identical or different and are a

linear or branched radical of the formula $-(C_pH_{2p}O)_rR^{15}$ in which R^{15} is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, p is an integer from 1 to 5 and r is an integer from 2 to 10; or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 18 carbon atoms; or an unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl radical; R^{14} is a linear or branched radical of the formula $-(C_pH_{2p}O)_rR^{15}$, in which R^{15} is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, p is an integer from 1 to 5 and r is an integer from 2 to 10; and X^- is fluoride, chloride, bromide, $SO_4^{2-1/2}$ or hydrogen sulfate.

- 7. A mixture of substances as claimed in claim 5, which comprises at least one compound of the formula (1) and at least one compound from the group of quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula (2).
 - 8. A process for preparing compounds of the formula



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which comprises reacting a phosphorus pentahalide in the presence of an inert solvent at from -70 to 140°C with from 1 to 6 mol of

per halogen equivalent to be exchanged, and subsequently reacting the reaction product with from 1 to 10 mol of

or HNR⁹R¹⁰ per halogen equivalent still to be exchanged.

9. The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein PCI₅ or PBr₅ is employed as phosphorus pentahalide.

- 10. The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon or a mono- or polychlorinated aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon is employed as inert solvent.
- 5 11. The use of a compound of the formula (1) as catalyst and cocatalyst for phase-transfer reactions, nucleophilic substitutions and halogen-fluorine exchange reactions.
- 12. The use of a mixture of substances comprising at least one compound of the formula (1) and at least one compound selected from the group of quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula (2), quaternary ammonium salts or phosphonium salts of the formula (3), polyethers of the formula (4) and crown ethers as catalyst for phase-transfer reactions, nucleophilic substitutions and halogenfluorine exchange reactions.